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sufferers in the southeastern provinces of Russia, where the harvests were ruined last season by drought. Nothing tends more to break down the barriers of prejudice and ill-feeling among nations and races and to promote friendship and peace among them than sympathetic and prompt relief in times of such unavoidable misfortune. For the Chinese sufferers aid may be sent through any of the missionary boards. For the Russians a special committee of relief is being formed in New York and other cities, through the solicitation of Mr. Shishkoff of Samara, Russia, who has just made a short visit to this country to ask for help for his famine-stricken fellow countrymen. For information address Hon. Samuel J. Barrows, 135 East 15th Street, New York.

The Japan  
Peace Society.

We have received the following official letter from the new Japan Peace Society.

We are sorry that we could not give it to our readers earlier, but it will be just as interesting now as if it had been published two months ago:

"To the American Peace Society,  
Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

"We have to-day held a large and successful opening meeting of the Japan Peace Society. We intend to labor earnestly for the cause of peace, and we desire to coöperate with the American Peace Society.

"We express the hope that the present problem of the Japanese school children in San Francisco may be settled according to the principles of peace. To this end we trust that your Society will exert its utmost influence.

"On behalf of the Japan Peace Society,  
"S. EBARA, President.

"Office of the Japan Peace Society,

"Y. M. C. A. HALL,

"KANDA, TOKYO.

"November 24, 1906."

We assure the friends of peace in Japan that the American Peace Society will do its utmost, as it has already been trying to do, through the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* and otherwise, to bring about, along pacific lines, a solution of the question raised by the San Francisco school authorities, such as will be just and at the same time strengthen the bonds of friendship which have so long existed between the two countries. Japan and the United States are natural friends, and will continue to be so in spite of the war talk of a few people and journals who seem never to be happy unless they are instigating mischief.

Twenty-second  
of February.

Many of the peace societies in Europe observed again this year the 22d of February for a common manifestation in behalf of international friendship and peace. The following resolution, with variations, was adopted at all these meetings:

"The meeting held at . . . the 22d of February, 1907, in consideration of the resolutions of the first Hague Conference of 1899, which, after having declared that 'the limitation of military expenses which now burden the world is greatly to be desired, for the advancement of the material and moral welfare of humanity,' expressed the wish that the governments should 'have the question of an agreement concerning the limitation of armed forces on land and sea and of the war budgets carefully studied,'

"Hopes that the second Hague Conference, resolutely taking up the same subject, will, without fail, find and cause to be adopted by the states represented a practical formula for the reduction of armaments, and likewise a model arbitration providing for the submission of every international difference to arbitration.

"The meeting likewise supports the resolution adopted by the fifteenth Peace Congress held at Milan in 1906, which expresses the wish that the governments will give to their plenipotentiaries to The Hague the powers which will enable the Conference to declare itself periodic and thus assure its continuity, as well as the complete execution of its decisions, by adopting such measures as will, in the intervals of its sessions, secure the existence of a permanent organism with definite powers."

## Brevities.

. . . Bishop Whitaker of Pennsylvania, speaking of the proposed Jamestown military display, says: "To make the chief feature of the Jamestown Exposition a barbaric display of military power would be a confession that the controlling minds of the twentieth century have lost sight of the high ideals of our national life which were cherished by Washington, Jefferson, and Franklin." Bishop Talbot of Central Pennsylvania writes: "It is unworthy of a Christian nation."

. . . The one hundred and fourteen members of the Danish Chamber of Deputies are all members of the Interparliamentary Union, that is, of the Danish Group of the Union. Of the sixty-six senators, forty-eight are likewise members. So far as we know, therefore, Denmark leads the world in this particular. And two of Denmark's arbitration treaties, namely, those with The Netherlands and with Italy, are without any limitations whatever, either as to time or as to class of disputes.

. . . The San Domingo treaty was ratified by the Senate on February 25. It provides for the assistance of the United States in the collection and application of the customs revenues of the Dominican republic to the payment of the republic's creditors. The course of the President in regard to San Domingo was severely criticised in the Senate during the debate on the treaty as unconstitutional, and it was declared by some senators that the treaty creates a protectorate of the republic for fifty years.

. . . Dr. Parkhurst of New York, in his sermon on February 17, declared that while "he was proud in a way of the American character and of American progress," yet he "was amazed to see this country teaching the educated wolves on the other side of the water that we credit ourselves with having no substantial equipment of offense or of defense except what is involved in fangs and incisors." The proposed military display at the Jamestown Exposition he declared to be barbaric, and thought it was "gratifying to know that the Administration was not behind it, and that the appropriation made in its behalf by Congress was secured by chicanery," yet it would have its militarizing effects, and "would have the appearance of being a national kick at Christianity."

. . . The *Boston Daily Advertiser* asserts its belief that, in spite of superficial indications to the contrary, "if the question were squarely submitted to a popular vote, at least two-thirds of the American people would register themselves very emphatically in favor of any plan which would abolish war by means of some carefully guarded agreement for international arbitration."

. . . The Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce has adopted a resolution approving the action of last summer's Lake Mohonk Conference on international arbitration, which urges the second Hague Conference to organize a permanent Congress of Nations, vested with advisory powers. It also approves of a general treaty of arbitration for the acceptance of all the nations and a plan for the restriction of armaments, and, if possible, their reduction by international agreement.

. . . The Committee on Federal Relations of the Massachusetts Legislature, to which was referred the petition and resolution in behalf of American influence at the Hague Conference, as stated in our last issue, has by a unanimous vote favorably reported the resolution recommending its adoption. In addition to the five measures urged in the resolution for the program of the Hague Conference, the Committee added the recommendation of the Massachusetts State Board of Trade that in the interests of the commerce and peace of the world the trade routes of the ocean should be neutralized. The prospect is that there will be little or no opposition to the report of the committee and that the resolution will be adopted by both the House and the Senate.

. . . A special session of the Commission of the International Peace Bureau was held at Berne on the 25th of February, to arrange for the selection of a successor to Mr. Elié Ducommun as secretary, and to begin the preparations for the sixteenth International Peace Congress, which is to meet at Munich, Germany, in the early autumn.

. . . The Baroness Von Suttner and Mr. A. H. Fried began on February 1 the publication at Vienna of a paper called the *Politisch Pacifistische Correspondenz*, with a view of promoting in Germany and Austria public interest in the coming Hague Conference. The paper will be sent gratuitously to three hundred German and Austrian newspapers, and will be published as a daily at The Hague while the Conference is in session. Prominent public men and authors have promised their coöperation.

. . . The Central Committee of the French peace societies has started a *vaste petitionnement* throughout the Republic with a view of bringing influence to bear at the coming Hague Conference for the institution of obligatory arbitration for the settlement of all international differences. The text of the petition is as follows:

"Justice and disarmament

Justice first; disarmament afterwards.

"The first Hague Conference instituted a Permanent Court of International Arbitration.

"All the great nations of the world have concluded treaties of arbitration, from which, however, it is possible for them again to withdraw.

"The second Hague Conference will meet soon.

"In order to render wars henceforth impossible, in order to reduce taxes, in order to lessen the military burdens, the undersigned ask the government of the Republic to give to its delegates to the coming Hague Conference instructions to propose obligatory arbitration in the case of all international differences."

. . . The Russian Committee of Relief for the children of soldiers who died in the Russo-Japanese war has, in its official statement, given the number of children left orphans by the war as from 210,000 to 225,000. The government has given to the committee for the support and care of these orphans only a million and a half of dollars, or only about seven dollars for each child. Whatever else is done for them must be done by private care and private contributions. War is one of the greatest enemies to children. The same report gives the total number of Russian casualties in the war as about 371,000; 300,000, at the least, of these have been permanently lost to the nation.

. . . At the annual meeting of the California Federation of Women's Clubs, held at Bakersfield, February 6 to 8, a resolution was adopted recommending to the Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs that the day at the Jamestown Exposition of which the Committee is to have charge be made a peace day. But a resolution offered in opposition to the bill before the California Legislature providing for rifle-shooting in the schools was not approved. It is said, however, that this bill is so strongly opposed throughout the State that it will not be passed.

. . . Speaking of his contribution of three-quarters of a million toward the erection of the proposed building for the Bureau of American republics in Washington, Mr. Carnegie said: "I consider myself highly honored by being considered worthy to provide the forthcoming union a home, where the accredited representatives of all the republics are to meet, and, I trust, to bind together their respective nations in the bonds of unbroken peace."

. . . At a meeting of Socialists of Marion County, Ind., at Indianapolis, on the evening of February 6, a stirring protest was made against the current talk of war with Japan, which it was declared would be a war of the capitalist classes of the two countries, for commercial supremacy on the Pacific. The resolutions declare that the working classes, who would be called upon, in case of war, to fight all the battles, have identical interests in the two countries. They also condemn the "cheap trickery of an appeal to a false patriotism" to "bring on a war which may bathe the two countries in the blood of

their noblest sons," and appeal to the workers of both America and Japan to refuse to have anything to do with such a war.

. . . The Italian government last month issued instructions that the directors of all schools explain to their students on Washington's Birthday the meaning and importance of the celebration of this day in the United States. The instructions close with these words: "All civilized countries must aspire to peace as their supreme aim."

. . . A prize of \$25 has been offered by Mary and Helen Seabury of New Bedford, Mass., through the Intercollegiate Peace Association, to the students of Oberlin College for the best oration on some phase of the general subject of international peace and arbitration. The winner in this contest will be eligible for the intercollegiate contest on the same subject, to be held in May at Cincinnati, where the prize is much larger. The Misses Seabury, who are among the most devoted and active of the friends of peace, have offered similar prizes to the students of a number of other institutions.

. . . It is a great pleasure to all of us to know that the George Burnham, Jr., so often referred to in the legal proceedings in connection with the insurance scandals in New York is "an entirely different person" from George Burnham, Jr., of Philadelphia, treasurer of the National Municipal League. The latter is still building locomotives at the Baldwin Locomotive Works and contributing his full share of the power that is making the world steadily better. He is an honored member and supporter of the American Peace Society.

. . . An interesting debate took place on the afternoon of February 24, in the Y. M. C. A. hall at Columbus, Ohio, on the question: "*Resolved*, that the nations of the earth ought to depend upon arbitration rather than large armies and navies for the settlement of their international difficulties." The speakers were W. A. Mahoney, chairman of the arbitration committee of the Columbus board of trade, and Captain Raymond Metcalf, army surgeon at the Columbus barracks. Several army officers and many men prominent in the commercial and industrial life of the city were present. Mr. Mahoney made a strong and elaborate plea for arbitration in all international controversies. Mr. Metcalf believed in arbitration up to a certain point, but held that "questions of honor and justice" can be settled only by war, and that "the only way to have peace is to have an army and navy large enough to maintain peace."

. . . The National German Peace Society, of which Dr. Adolf Richter of Pforzheim is the able and devoted president, has now eighty-seven local branches in different parts of the empire.

. . . While Mr. de Martens, the Russian special envoy to the capitals of Europe to arrange the preliminaries of the Hague Conference, was at The Hague, the American Minister, David J. Hill, gave a dinner in his honor. Mr. de Martens had interviews with the American ambassadors and ministers in the other capitals which he visited.

## The Arsenal at Springfield.

[Apropos of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, which occurred on the 27th of February, and was widely observed in New England and elsewhere, we can pay our tribute of honor to him in no better way than by reprinting his poem, — one of the very best he ever wrote, one of the very best ever written by any American, — "The Arsenal at Springfield." Sumner once said that the greatest service which the Springfield arsenal had rendered was that it had given Longfellow the opportunity to write this wonderful poem, a poem which will be read and admired, we feel sure, when arsenals are a thing of the past. — Ed.]

This is the arsenal. From floor to ceiling,  
Like a huge organ, rise the burnished arms;  
But from their silent pipes no anthem pealing  
Startles the villagers with strange alarms.

Ah! what a sound will rise, how wild and dreary,  
When the death-angel touches those swift keys!  
What loud lament and dismal Miserere  
Will mingle with their awful symphonies!

I hear even now the infinite fierce chorus,  
The cries of agony, the endless groan,  
Which, through the ages that have gone before us,  
In long reverberations reach our own.

On helm and harness rings the Saxon hammer,  
Through Cimbric forest roars the Norseman's song,  
And loud, amid the universal clamor,  
O'er distant deserts sounds the Tartar gong.

I hear the Florentine, who, from his palace,  
Wheels out his battle-bell with dreadful din,  
And Aztec priests upon their teocallis  
Beat the wild war-drums made of serpent's skin.

The tumult of each sacked and burning village;  
The shout that every prayer for mercy drowns;  
The soldiers' revels in the midst of pillage;  
The wail of famine in beleaguered towns;

The bursting shell, the gateway wrenched asunder,  
The rattling musketry, the clashing blade;  
And ever and anon, in tones of thunder,  
The diapason of the cannonade.

Is it, O man, with such discordant noises,  
With such accursed instruments as these,  
Thou drownest Nature's sweet and kindly voices,  
And jarrest the celestial harmonies?

Were half the power, that fills the world with terror,  
Were half the wealth, bestowed on camps and courts,  
Given to redeem the human mind from error,  
There were no need of arsenals or forts.

The warrior's name would be a name abhorred!  
And every nation that should lift again  
Its hand against a brother, on its forehead  
Would wear forevermore the curse of Cain!

Down the dark future, through long generations,  
The echoing sounds grow fainter and then cease;  
And like a bell, with solemn, sweet vibrations,  
I hear once more the voice of Christ say, "Peace!"

Peace! and no longer from its brazen portals  
The blast of war's great organ shakes the skies!  
But beautiful as songs of the immortals,  
The holy melodies of love arise.